

Monitoring

monitoring: checking your comprehension as you read and modifying your strategies to suit your needs

reading rate: the speed at which a reader reads a passage

skimming: reading quickly to get the general idea of a text.

scanning: searching quickly through a text for a particular fact or piece of information

summarizing: a brief retelling, in your own words, of the main ideas and important details

Step 1: Before you read, skim the passage. Skim the text to get its general drift. Notice titles, headings, and captions.

Step 2: Visualize what you are reading. As you read a passage for the first time, try to picture what the words are saying.

Step 3: Pause and reflect. Stop at the end of a paragraph to think for a moment about what you have read.

Step 4: Ask questions and make predictions. Ask yourself questions about what you are reading, and read on to find the answers. Predict what will happen next, and read on to see if you are right.

Step 5: Notice when something doesn't make sense. Note when something doesn't make sense. You may have missed a few important words or misunderstood something. Go back and find out where you went off track.

Step 6: Use strategies to correct misunderstandings. Try the following:

- **Adjust your reading rate.** Slow down if you're having trouble comprehending.
- **Read aloud, re-read, or read on.** *Hearing* the words or reading them again can help. If something is still confusing, reading on may clarify the information.
- **Scan for key words** to locate particular information.
- **Check the meanings of unfamiliar words**, using context clues or a dictionary.
- **Take notes or summarize key points.** Jot down main ideas and important details in your own words to improve understanding.
- **Ask for help.** If you have questions you can't answer, ask.